



PHOTO BY BARBARA MACON

Exploring **NC's** museum resources

During an NCCAT seminar, teachers Sheila Vaught and Laura DeStefano study one of the many species of insects.

By Zach Laminack

Back from the first run of one of NCCAT's new seminars, "Capital Culture: Museum Resources of Raleigh," a group of teachers are now familiar with the state capital's many educational and enrichment resources.

Sometimes these resources can be overlooked. And often, even for teachers familiar with Raleigh's museums, it can be difficult to organize and fund a class trip from Murphy, Manteo, or even Cary.

With this in mind, Dr. Jonathan Wade of the NCCAT faculty and program associates Barbara Macon and Linda Kinnear organized a thorough exploration for teachers of museums and community resources in Raleigh.

The teachers' first stop, at the Prairie Ridge

Ecostation for Wildlife and Learning, was perhaps the most unique. A field station of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, the Ecostation was conceived as a way to recreate a parcel of the prairies that once covered much of the piedmont.

At Prairie Ridge, the teachers met Mike Dunn, a museum educator for the Museum of Natural Sciences, who led the teachers on a tour of the outdoor classroom. The eco-friendly facility makes use of recycled materials and rainwater collected in a cistern onsite. At a demonstration pond, the teachers identified species of insects and other aquatic life.

"I loved the bugs and getting outside, the looking and investigating. I can really see the kids doing that," said Media Specialist Laura DeStefano of Supply.

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Guided by Artspace's IlaSahai Prouty, teacher Rich McElfresh sinks his hand into gel used to create molds for life casting.

Up-close study of a Cecropia moth caterpillar at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.



According to a spokesperson for the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, plans call for the future residential facility to provide programming and allow students and teachers from across the state to see this unique environmental education site.

After Prairie Ridge and the Museum of Natural Sciences, the teachers traveled to the Museum of Art, where they studied techniques useful for viewing art and for using art as a way to inspire critical thinking in young learners. In the classroom space of the museum, teachers learned about ArtNC, an online resource sponsored by the museum, which includes interdisciplinary lesson

plans and other curriculum materials for grades K–12 and printable images for use in the classroom.

The teachers also visited Artspace, a nonprofit visual art center dedicated to presenting quality exhibitions and educational programs within an open-studio environment. As the teachers discovered, Artspace approaches that goal from a different angle, preferring a hands-on approach over the more traditional lecture setting.

“We have thirty-five artists who work here in the building and have studio spaces here, and we invite the public to come in, see art being created, and learn about the creative process. We serve schools, teachers, the community, and we invite them to use our artists as resources. We also do summer programs, outreach programs with youth in the community, and put on almost thirty exhibitions per year,” said Lia Newman, director of programs and exhibitions.

The “Capital Culture” seminar also introduced the teachers to a variety of online resources especially beneficial to those who live a long bus ride away from Raleigh. Online museums are available through LEARN North Carolina and North Carolina ECHO, Exploring Cultural Heritage Online.

A resource from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Education, LEARN NC features lesson plans, articles, online courses, and more—all downloadable for free. Also on the LEARN NC website is a link featuring virtual field trips through Discover NC!, a website that allows users to view and interact with museum resources in counties across North Carolina, and provides links to NC ECHO, another good resource for teachers.

NC Museums Online

LEARN NC—www.learnnc.org

NC ECHO—www.ncecho.org

ArtNC—www.ncartmuseum.org/artnc

Museum of History—www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Museum of Natural Sciences—www.naturalsciences.org

Raleigh City Museum—www.raleighcitymuseum.org

Broadway bound

During an NCCAT seminar held in New York City in August, teachers learned part of a Broadway stage routine from two of the nation's top dance masters. The lesson, from Mindy Cooper and Gregory Butler (at right with teachers) of the smash hit show, *Chicago: The Musical*, was one of the activities in a seminar appropriately titled "On Broadway!"

During their experience, the teachers gained insights into perspectives of the performers, directors, costume designers, producers, choreographers, and others involved in the creation of major productions. The seminar featured a rare opportunity for the teachers, thanks to William Ivey Long, a member of the Board of Directors of the NCCAT foundation. The widely acclaimed Tony award-winning costume designer invited them into his home and design studio for one of their seminar sessions. Long, one of North Carolina's most famous native sons, and his associate, Donald Sanders, have been instrumental in the development of NCCAT's "On Broadway!" seminar, now in its second year. The experience offers the teachers who participate a rare opportunity to meet and learn from the nation's top dance, costume, and theatre professionals, and discover ways to nurture student talent.

In comments he wrote about the seminar, Cleve Davis of Hope Mills, one of the participants, said that the experience gave him a much greater appreciation for the many contributions of theatre to our culture. "Theatre lifts the human spirit, elevating the soul to travel, the mind to grow, and the heart to explore emotions," he wrote. "This week was a journey where I think we all need to venture within ourselves, and only theatre can do this."

Michele Hutchinson of Rockingham, wrote that the seminar reminded her that studying the arts can benefit students. "...I will definitely encourage my students to pursue their interests in the arts. More importantly, I will provide many more opportunities for my students to experience the arts in my classroom," she wrote. "I will be more aware of my students who are creative and have a fire inside."



PHOTOS BY BARBARA MACON

Below: At Tricorne Inc., in New York City's Garment District, participants listen intently during a discussion of the intricate process involved in taking a costume design from illustration to finished product.



PHOTO BY BRENDA LASSITER



William Byrum (center) accepts the certificate and vase commemorating the endowment of the scholarship created in his name. With him are Willis P. Whichard (left) of Chapel Hill, vice president of the Development Foundation of NCCAT, and Dr. Kenneth Wells of Manteo, chairman of the NCCAT Board of Trustees.

A. Craig Phillips got his nickname, "Old Fossil," from his family on his eightieth birthday. Before that he was known as "The Chief" for serving as the state's top public education official.



Byrum scholarship is endowed

An Honored Educator Scholarship at NCCAT is named for one of Perquimans County's most respected educators, William Byrum.

The pastor of Whiteville Grove Baptist Church in Belvidere, Byrum has served on the Board of Education of Perquimans County for six years, including three years as chairman. He was principal at Perquimans County High School for thirty years. After his retirement, he served as a testing coordinator and as a special assistant to the superintendent. His lifelong contributions to public education and his service to his community were celebrated during a June

ceremony at the Perquimans County Schools office.

"William Byrum has been a friend of public education in Perquimans County for more than four decades," said Wells, superintendent of Perquimans County Schools. "He has faithfully served students, teachers, and our community as a classroom teacher, high school principal, central office administrator, and currently as a board member of the Perquimans County Board of Education."

The scholarship was endowed when it reached \$25,000. Most of the funds were contributed by Byrum's former students and fellow teachers and administrators who were pleased to have the opportunity to honor one of the county's most admired citizens. The scholarship, to be awarded annually to the Perquimans County Teacher of the Year, provides an NCCAT seminar experience and \$250 for classroom use.

Phillips scholarship golf tourney raises \$8,000

Dr. A. Craig Phillips, former superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools, and superintendent of the State Board of Education for twenty years, hit the links with other golfers in June for the "Old Fossil" Golf Tournament named for him.

The event at the Longleaf Golf and Country Club in Southern Pines raised almost \$8,000 to benefit the Honored Educator Scholarship fund at NCCAT that is named for Phillips in recognition of his service to the state. The scholarship fund will become endowed when it reaches \$25,000. Special thanks go to John Marentette, the PGA director of golf at the country club, and to Jim Simeon, who coordinated the tournament. Others serving on the tournament committee were Bryce Cummings, Bob Boyd, Andy Phillips, Reeves McGlohon, George Norris, and David Bryant.

The event was such a success that next year's "Old Fossil" tournament already has been scheduled for June 19, 2007, on the same course. For more information, contact Greg Bauguess in the NCCAT Development office at 828-293-5202, email bauguessg@nccat.org, or Jim Simeon at 910-693-9910.

Chappo and Dalton join faculty

Historian John Chappo and fiber artist Jane Dalton were recently named center fellows at NCCAT. They join a faculty of twelve members who research, design, and implement more than ninety residential seminars each year to renew teachers' enthusiasm for teaching and provide them with new knowledge for the classroom.



Chappo has worked in a variety of fields including human resources, financial planning, and education. From 2001 until 2003, he chaired the social studies department at Horizon Science Academy of Cleveland, Ohio. While in graduate school at the University of Southern Mississippi for the past two years, he taught undergraduate sections of survey courses in American and world history.

He received his bachelor's degree in history from Eastern Michigan University and his master's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, where he is currently completing his Ph.D. in history.



Dalton has taught at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, the Out of Door Academy in Sarasota, Florida, and the Cary Academy in Cary. Her work has been featured in shows and exhibitions around the country, including Duke University's Louise Jones Brown Gallery and the North Carolina Museum of Art. It also is included in the permanent collections of the Affiliated High School of Peking University in China, the SAS Institute in Cary, and other locations. She is co-author with Lyn

Fairchild of a book, *The Compassionate Classroom*.

Dalton received her bachelor's degree from Augustana College and her Master of Fine Arts degree from the School for American Craftsman, Rochester Institute of Technology. She earned K-12 teaching certification from the University of Iowa.

Thirty schools honored

Thirty North Carolina schools will be receiving special certificates and a personal thank you this year, thanks to loyal NCCAT alumni who led efforts on behalf of the Annual Fund in their schools.

The schools are known as Golden Apple Schools, a designation made when all of the NCCAT alumni at a school participate in the Annual Fund. To qualify for Golden Apple designation, schools must have a minimum of four teachers who are NCCAT alumni. For information about becoming a Golden Apple School, contact: Dee Grantham by phone at 828-293-5202 or email granthamd@nccat.org.



WEBSITE HAS NEW LOOK

Check out the new NCCAT website

www.nccat.org

We've been working diligently to make our website more user-friendly and informative. It's an ongoing process, so stay tuned as we continue to refine our web presence to best serve our audiences.

2005-2006 Golden Apple Schools

Fred A. Anderson Elementary, Bayboro

Asheboro High, Asheboro

Roger R. Bell Elementary, Havelock

Bethel Elementary, Midland

Durant Road Elementary, Raleigh

Easton Elementary, Winston-Salem

Enfield Middle, Enfield

First Flight Elementary, Kill Devil Hills

Gateway Education Center, Greensboro

Hunter Elementary, Raleigh

Holbrook Elementary, Fort Bragg

Leaksville-Spray Elementary, Eden

McNair Elementary, Fort Bragg

Meadowlark Elementary, Winston-Salem

Morrison Correctional Institution, Hoffman

Mountain View Elementary, Jefferson

Newton-Conover Middle, Newton

North Buncombe Elementary, Weaverville

North Chatham Elementary, Chapel Hill

North Ridge Elementary, Raleigh

Oakwood Elementary, Hickory

Pope Elementary, Fort Bragg

Sedgefield Elementary, Greensboro

Stoneville Elementary, Stoneville

Timber Drive Elementary, Garner

Union Elementary, Clinton

Vandora Springs Elementary, Garner

Warlick School, Gastonia

West Brunswick High, Shallotte

Wintergreen Primary, Greenville



PHOTO BY SANDRA BOWLING

Living history on the Missouri

Beth Floyd of Fairmont readies herself for canoeing with other teachers-turned-explorers during a six-day history seminar that retraced part of the nineteenth century route of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. She was among a group of twenty-five teachers in “Caught Up in the Current: Traveling with Lewis and Clark” held in June in Montana.

During the seminar, reading and discussions of history were paired with the physical challenges of paddling and making camp alongside the Missouri River. For the teachers, the experience created a different kind of classroom than the ones they’re accustomed to, one where experience is a valuable lesson.

The teachers began their trip in Great Falls at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, where they studied President Jefferson’s vision for westward expansion and the travels of Lewis and Clark. After studying the museums in Great Falls, the teachers set out to relive the journey for themselves via canoe, and wound up with an experience that has helped them see both the landscape and the contributions of history in a whole new way.

Alumna takes her NCCAT experience back to school



PHOTO BY NATALIE ELDERS

Harder at NCCAT in 2004

Looking back, Maggie Harder says that “Learning on the Fast Track,” the NCCAT seminar she attended two years ago, wasn’t her first choice at the time. The activities had a science emphasis and involved the laws of motion and building model cars. An English-as-a-second-language specialist, she thought at first that she would be better suited in a writing seminar.

But two years later she says her experiences have benefited students at Estes Hills Elementary in Chapel Hill. Harder volunteered to work with a group her school describes as “fragile learners,” who needed extra motivation. A study of cars definitely held their attention. On Friday mornings for several weeks Harder recreated activities from the NCCAT seminar.

The students built and raced model cars, some of which ran on solar energy, others powered by air-filled balloons. “All of their teachers said that these students were really excited and couldn’t wait for Fridays,” she said. The activities motivated them to learn.

Workers are making rapid progress restoring the Ocracoke facility.



PHOTOS BY CLAYTON GASKILL

*NCCAT Executive Director
Dr. Mary McDuffie and
Alton Ballance, coordinator of
the Ocracoke campus, check on
construction.*

Ocracoke revovations progress

Construction crews have been hard at work in Ocracoke over the past few months. Much progress has been made at the former U.S. Coast Guard Station, which will host NCCAT seminars for teachers when it opens in 2007. Workers have framed interior walls and installed plumbing and electrical rough-ins. In the coming months, they will focus on exterior siding, window and door installation, and roofing.

When complete, the new campus will include housing for twenty-four visiting teachers, several seminar rooms, office space, a commons area, kitchen facility, and a dining hall. The facilities will make use of an environmentally friendly geothermal energy system. This features an underground network of water-filled pipes that take advantage of the fairly constant temperatures beneath the Earth's surface to provide heating and cooling for the buildings.



Top teachers discuss character, leadership

North Carolina Teacher of the Year Diana Beasley of Conover leads a brainstorming session about the qualities of human character during "Leadership, Creativity, and Change," a seminar held in June. Using what is known as a fishbone diagram, the participants, teachers of the year from regions across the state, marked such qualities as honesty, integrity, and courage.

The seminar focused on leadership as an integral part of being recognized as one of the state's outstanding teachers. Participants were charged with modeling their successful teaching practices in order to make positive changes in their schools.



PHOTO BY BLAKE MADDEN

Coming in 2007—Alumni Weekend Seminars

At an Alumni Weekend Seminar held last year, teachers had an opportunity to connect with colleagues from all over the state while learning to play musical instruments from other lands. If you're one of our alumni (teachers who have participated in NCCAT's residential seminars), you'll be receiving a brochure about the 2007 events being planned just for you. Held in three parts of the state, they promise an activity-filled weekend focused on topics of interest. The schedule includes "New Year, New You: Renewing Our Commitment to Healthy Living," January 12–14, 2007, at Pinehurst Resort; "The Beaches Are Moving," February 16–18, 2007, at Sheraton Atlantic Beach; and "Music of the Mountains," March 23–25, 2007, at NCCAT. Alumni are invited to attend one seminar of their choice. Watch your mail this fall for a brochure including registration information.

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